GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2834
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2016
Old Age and Disability Pension
Patel Shri Prahlad Singh

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scientific study has been constituted with regard to old age and disability pension;

(b) if so, the details and findings thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any estimates of the expenditure likely to be incurred on sustenance and medical expenses of old and disabled people;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any representation has been received from any quarter including public representatives to increase the said pension, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) to (d) No, Madam. However, as per information provided by the Ministry of Rural Development, assistance under schemes of National Social Assistance Programme(NSAP) are provided only to the persons belonging to Below Poverty Line(BPL) households. Old Age Pension is provided under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme(IGNOAPS) to the persons belonging to Below Poverty Line(BPL) households as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India. Under IGNOAPS, Central assistance of Rs. 200/- p.m. per beneficiary is provided to the persons of 60-79 years and Rs. 500/- p.m. per beneficiary to persons of 80 years or more.

Under the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme(IGNDPS), Central assistance of Rs.300/- per month is provided to persons aged 18-79 years with severe or multiple disabilities and belonging to Below Poverty Line(BPL) households as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India. After attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiaries are shifted to IGNOAPS to get enhanced pension of Rs. 500/- per month. Rate of assistance under IGNOAPS and IGNDPS is restricted only to the BPL households and not to all old age/differently abled persons.

(e) Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (D/o EPwD) has received representations regarding increase in the quantum of disability pension. Moreover the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment has also recommended that disability pension under Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) should be increased. Ministry of Rural Development being the implementing Ministry for IGNDPS has been requested by D/o EPwD to consider the observations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee.